

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 09282 181637Z

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ACTION SY-05

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R 181530Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6566

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9282

FOR DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: SECURITY PROTECTION AFFORDED PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS AT
OVERSEAS POSTS

REF A. STATE 210312; B. STATE 211364

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR INTEREST IN CAIRO'S AND ALEXANDRIA'S
PHYSICAL SECURITY. I HAVE MADE MY INTEREST IN THIS KNOWN
HERE FROM THE BEGINNING AND CONTINUE TO DO SO. IN CONNECTION
WITH YOUR QUERY, YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT UNLIKE MOST OTHER
POSTS TOWHICH YOUR MESSAGE WAS SENT, WE HAVE BEEN IN
BUSINESS AS AN EMBASSY FOR ONLY ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF.
IT HAS NECESSARILY BEEN A PERIOD OF RAPID, OFTEN PAINFUL
EXPANSION OF STAFF, INVOLVING LOCATION AND RELOCATION OF OFFICES.
WE HAVE STARTED VIRTUALLY FROM SCRATCH IN ORGANIZING
AN EMBASSY OPERATION CAPABLE OF COOPERATING WITH THE HEAVY,
RAPID ACTION REQUIREMENTS WITH WHICH THE POST HAS BEEN TASKED.
ADEQUATE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS HAS BEEN ONE IMPORTANT FACTOR
THAT HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION.

2. ACCOMPLISHMENTS: IN APRIL 1974 A MARINE SECURITY GUARD
DETACHMENT OF ONE NCOIC AND FIVE WATCHSTANDERS WAS ASSIGNED.
IN AUGUST 1974 THE DETACHMENT WAS INCREASED TO TEN WATCH-
STANDERS. AN RSO WAS ASSIGNED IN MAY 1974 TO COVER CAIRO
AND ALEXANDRIA. HE HAS MADE A NUMBER OF SECURITY RECOMMENDA-
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 09282 181637Z

TIONS. THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED:

A. AT MAIN PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE TO EMBASSY COMPOUND AND USIS LIBRARY, FSL WATCHMEN HAVE BEEN POSITIONED TO CONTROL ACCESS AND INSPECT HANDCARRIED PARCELS AND BRIEFCASES.

B. THREE COSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CAMERAS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED ON THE EMBASSY COMPOUND BY TECHNICAL SECURITY OFFICERS FROM BEIRUT. THEY ARE MONITORED BY 24 HOUR MARINE GUARD POSTED IN CHANCERY.

C. PANIC ALARMS TO MSG POSTED IN THE CHANCERY HAVE BEEN POSITIONED IN EACH EMBASSY OFFICE AND AT USIS LIBRARY. MSG'S HAVE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH GUIDE THEIR RESPONSE TO ALARMS.

D. ADDITIONAL PROTECTIVE APPAREL, WEAPONS, AMMUNITION AND TEARGAS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO EMBASSY FOR USE BY MARINE GUARDS AND DESIGNATED EMBASSY PERSONNEL FOR EMERGENCY REACTION.

E. PERMIMETER WALL AROUND EMBASSY COMPOUND IS BEING HEIGHTENED AND REINFORCED.

F. PERMITER WALL AROUND USIS LIBRARY HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED AND REINFORCED.

G. EMBASSY HAS CONTRACTED FOR SIX MORE LOCAL WATCHMEN TO INCREASE ACCESS CONTROLS INTO EMBASSY COMPOUND.

H. AMBASSADOR HAS GOE POLICEMEN ACCOMPANYING HIM ON EACH VEHICULAR MOVEMENT AND POSTED AT HIS RESIDENCE 24 HOURS A DAY.

I. A 24 HOUR MARINE GUARD POST HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.

J. AMBASSADOR PRESENTLY RIDES IN A FULLY ARMORED LIMOUSINE ISSUED BY A/SY. WE HAVE HAD SOME PROBLEMS WITH THAT CAR, BUT HAVE EXERTED ALL EFFORTS, WITH SY'S HELP TO KEEP IT OPERABLE. A/SY HAS ALSO PROVIDED A FOLLOW CAR FOR HIS PROTECTIVE DETAIL.
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 09282 181637Z

K. RSO HAS ESTABLISHED CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN PROMPT ATTENTION TO THE SECURITY NEEDS OF THE MISSION.

L. RSO HAS DRAFTED CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR EMBASSY PERSONNEL FOR RIOTS, DEMONSTRATIONS, TERRORIST ATTACKS, KIDNAPPINGS AND BOMB THREATS.

M. EMBASSY HAS BENEFITED FROM SECURITY ORIENTED FILM ON BOMBS

AND NUMEROUS OTHER SECURITY FILMS AND BRIEFINGS.

N. RSO IS IN PROCESS OF CONDUCTING SECURITY SURVEYS
ON RESIDENCES OCCUPIED BY EACH EMBASSY OFFICER.

O. SPECIAL SECURITY WINDOWS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED
IN AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE.

3. I CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED, NEVERTHELESS, ABOUT OUR
PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS. GIVEN THE CONFIGURATION OF THE CAIRO
COMPOUND, WE ARE VERY VULNERABLE. IN RECOGNITION
OF THIS, I GAVE INSTRUCTIONS SOME NINE MONTHS AGO THAT PLANS
BE DRAWN UP AND IMPLEMENTED FOR A NEW, MORE CONTROLLABLE
PUBLIC ENTRANCE. SINCE THIS WILL INVOLVE SIGNIFICANT
STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE CONFIGURATION OF AT LEAST PART OF THE
EMBASSY PERIMETER WALL, WE HAVE HAD TO GO THROUGH THE
PRESCRIBED FBO PROCEDURE OF SOLICITING OFFERS FOR DESIGN
WORK. WE SUBMITTED THE ONLY TWO OFFERS RECEIVED TO FBO
UNDER COVER OF A TRANSMITTAL SLIP DATED AUGUST 11, 1975.
IN CAIRO 8828, I URGED THAT AN EXPEDITIOUS RESPONSE BE
SENT SO THAT WE CAN GET THIS ALL IMPORTANT PROJECT UNDER
WAY. IT HAS DRAGGED ALONG TOO LONG ALREADY, PARTLY I REGRET
TO SAY BECAUSE OF THE SLOWNESS OF MY OWN OVER-BURDENED
ADMINISTRATION SECTION. NOW, HOWEVER, THE BALL IS IN THE
FBO COURT AND ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO URGE AN EXPEDITIOUS
RESPONSE WILL BE HELPFUL.

4. ANOTHER OF MY MAJOR CONCERNS IS THE USIS CENTER,
A SEPARATE BUILDING SEVERAL BLOCKS FROM THE EMBASSY
COMPOUND. ALTHOUGH RSO HAS TAKEN OVER CONTROL OF
EGYPTIAN GUARDS THERE, THE LIBRARY IS STILL VULNERABLE.
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PAGE 04 CAIRO 09282 181637Z

OUR EGYPTIAN POLICE CONTACTS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ON
THIS VULNERABILITY, BUT HAVE NO GOOD IDEAS ABOUT HOW IT CA
BE REDUCED. USIS LIBRARY STAFF HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BE
VIGILANT IN SCRUTINIZING ANY VISITORS. RSO IS CURRENTLY SEEKING
TO DEVISE OTHER MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE SECURITY OF THAT
BUILDING.

5. VARIOUS OTHER SECURITY MEASURES ARE NOW IN THE
PROCESS OF BEING IMPLEMENTED:

A. RSO HAS RECEIVED POST APPROVAL TO INSTALL A
REMOTELY CONTROLLED TEARGAS SYSTEM FOR CHANCERY
FOYER. WE ARE AWAITING SHIPMENT AND INSTALLATION
BY SEABEES.

B. ONCE THE EMBASSY RECREATION AREA CONSTRUCTION
IS COMPLETED, THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL CENTER IN
BEIRUT WILL INSTALL ALARMS ON THE COMPOUND PERIMETER.

6. IN THE CASE OF ALEXANDRIA, THE OLD CONSULATE GENERAL BUILDING IS STILL UNDER RECONSTRUCTION BY SEABEES. WORK IS SOME FIVE MONTHS LATE, THANKS TO INADEQUATE SUPERVISION BY THE AMERICAN ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEER, BUT WE ARE NOW PROMISED COMPLETION BY EARLY NOVEMBER. RSO HAS CONSULTED REGULARLY WITH CONGEN TO OPTIMIZE SECURITY ASPECTS OF THE REHABILITATION WORK. ONCE THE BUILDING IS COMPLETED AND USABLE, WE WILL MAKE FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SECURITY OF PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS.

7. ALL OF THE ABOVE HELPED GREATLY BUT I AM UNDER NO ILLUSIONS THAT EITHER CAIRO OR ALEXANDRIA IS INVULNERABLE. OUR LOCATIONS ARE SUCH THAT THERE IS A LIMIT TO OUR ABILITY TO CONTROL UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY TO THE PREMISES AND COMPOUND. HOWEVER, POST PERSONNEL HAVE ALL BEEN BRIEFED AND ALERTED TO THE NEED FOR CONSTANT VIGILANCE.
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